

The Senate Health and Human Services Committee offered the following substitute to SB 402:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To amend Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to highways, bridges, and ferries, so as to establish the Georgia Coordinating Council for Rural and Human Services Transportation to encourage efficient transportation service delivery in the rural areas of the state and to coordinate human service transportation services in both the rural and urban areas of the state; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for the membership, meetings, and expenses of such council; to provide for advisory committees; to provide for the duties of the council; to provide for an annual report; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Title 32 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to highways, bridges, and ferries, is amended by adding a new chapter to read as follows:

"CHAPTER 12

32-12-1.

The General Assembly finds that there exists a number of programs designed to provide rural and human services transportation, and that frequently these services are provided over large geographic areas and through various funding sources which are frequently targeted to narrowly defined client bases. The sheer number of such programs lends itself to a need for coordination among the programs so as to best assist economies in purchasing equipment and operating these many programs, to better serve the taxpayers of the state in ensuring the most cost-effective delivery of these services, and to best serve the clients utilizing the transportation services provided through these programs.

1 32-12-2.

2 There is hereby created the Georgia Coordinating Council for Rural and Human Services  
3 Transportation. Such council shall be composed of the State School Superintendent and  
4 the commissioners of the Department of Transportation, Department of Human Resources,  
5 Department of Community Health, and Department of Labor, or their respective designees.  
6 The commissioner of transportation or his or her designee shall serve as chairperson.  
7 Designees appointed pursuant to this Code section by the commissioner of an agency or  
8 the State School Superintendent shall at a minimum be at the level of division director.

9 32-12-3.

10 The Georgia Coordinating Council for Rural and Human Services Transportation shall  
11 meet at the call of the chairperson at such times and locations as the chairperson shall  
12 determine. The council shall meet not less often than quarterly, and expenses for  
13 participation of its members in said meetings shall be borne by each participating agency.  
14 Administrative expenses, other than travel or per diem expenses of members, shall be borne  
15 by the Department of Transportation.

16 32-12-4.

17 The Georgia Coordinating Council for Rural and Human Services Transportation may  
18 establish such advisory committees as it deems appropriate to fulfill its mission, which  
19 committees may consist of local government representatives; private and public sector  
20 transportation providers, both for profit and nonprofit in nature; public transit system  
21 representatives, both rural and urban; area planning and development commissions; and  
22 representatives of the clients served by the various programs administered by the agencies  
23 represented on the council.

24 32-12-5.

25 The Georgia Coordinating Council for Rural and Human Services Transportation shall  
26 examine the manner in which transportation services are provided by the participating  
27 agencies represented on the council. Such examination shall include but not be limited to:

- 28 (1) An analysis of all programs administered by participating agencies, including capital  
29 and operating costs, and overlapping or duplication of services among such programs,  
30 with emphasis on how to overcome such overlapping or duplication;  
31 (2) The means by which transportation services are coordinated among state, local, and  
32 federal funding source programs;

(3) The means by which both capital and operating costs for transportation could be combined or shared among agencies, including at a minimum shared purchase of vehicles and maintenance of such vehicles;

(4) An analysis of those areas which might appropriately be consolidated to lower the costs of program delivery without sacrificing program quality to clients, including shared use of vehicles for client trips regardless of the funding source which pays for their trips;

(5) An analysis of state of the art efforts to coordinate rural and human services transportation elsewhere in the nation, including at a minimum route scheduling so as to avoid duplicative trips in a given locality;

(6) A review of any limitations which may be imposed by various federally funded programs and how these limitations might be overcome through shared capital purchases or operations;

(7) An analysis of how agency programs interact with and impact upon state, local, or regional transportation services performed on behalf of the general public through state, local, or regional transit systems; and

(8) An evaluation of potential cost sharing opportunities available for clients served by council agencies so as to maximize service delivery efficiencies and to obtain the maximum benefit on their behalf with the limited amount of funds available.

32-12-6.

No later than December 31 of each year, the Georgia Coordinating Council for Rural and Human Services Transportation shall provide a report to the Governor and to the presiding officers of the General Assembly, with copies of said report being sent to the chairpersons of the transportation committees and the health and human services committees of each chamber of the General Assembly. The report shall address each of the specific duties enumerated in Code Section 32-12-5 and such other subject areas within its purview as the council shall deem appropriate. Each report shall focus on existing conditions in coordination of rural and human services transportation within the state and shall make specific recommendations for means to improve such current practices. Such recommendations shall address at a minimum both the cost implications and the impact on client service of each recommendation."

## **SECTION 2.**

This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

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SECTION 3.

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All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.